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1965-01-17, Bette to Parents

Bette J. Barto

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Subject Terms

Women and the military, Women and war, United States -- Air Force, United States -- Army -- Air Forces, Photographs, Armed Forces -- Correspondence, Correspondence -- Vietnam War -- 1961-1975, Christmas

Summary

This collection contains 139 correspondence from Maj. Bette J. Barto, USAFE to her parents while serving as a nurse during the late 1950s and 1960s. Also included are three photographs, one special orders document, and one marriage license. In several cases, Bette refers to her parents as "Lizzie" and "Hugh Elmer," or simply "Elmer." Three letters from 1961 or 1962 are undated and placed in a separate folder.

Keywords

1965-01-17

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SEYMOUR JOHNSON AIR FORCE BASE
Goldboro, North Carolina

Sunday Afternoon
17 Jan. 65

Dear Mom and Daddy,

I'm lying on my living room rug looking at out 6-8" of snow. It is sunny now, but the snow isn't disappearing very rapidly. Ray is napping, waiting to take an airplane to Raleigh airport to pick up a Colonel who is coming in from overseas. The runways are clear, but I still wish he didn't have to go.

We have had a fun weekend with our new addition to the household. We picked him up in a downpour of snow on Friday night. He went to sleep inside my coat and Gent sat on him all the way home. Gent fooled us, in that he was very concerned over the puppy's well-being. I left the light on in the kitchen; so he wouldn't be scared in an unfamiliar house. That made it a certainty that Gent and I got up every 2 hours to see about him. Last night he was mace at home; so I fed him at 10pm and turned out the light. The

first peep out of him was 6^{am}.
 This morning, I bathed him and
 dried him with a hair dryer in about
 15 minutes and trimmed his face and
 feet in another 30" yesterday, and he
 looked like a poodle all of a sudden.
 He will be black permanently, I
 believe, but he is full of life and
 isn't afraid to pull Gent's ears good.
 We have decided on 'Jolly' as his
 name; so I hope Miss Jolly doesn't
 mind.

Ray has gone to check the run-
 way and get his airplane ready.
 He should be back by 6³⁰ pm. I must
 bathe and wash my hair. I can't
 go to work looking like this even
 if I am to get a permanent tomorrow
 night. I had an appointment for Friday
 last but the operator cancelled on
 me because of her long trip home in
 the snow. I didn't care, for we were
 able to go after Jolly earlier.

Ray is back; he cancelled the trip
 after he saw the condition of the
 runway first hand. I surely was
 glad because it seems to be a
 bit colder already and it probably
 would have been solid ice by
 the time Ray got back here to land.
 It won't tell that Colonel to come
 a little more slowly by staff
 car, anyway!

I got my head scrubbed and
 my hair wigged up before Ray
 got back. Now I can relax a while

before time to start supper of fried chicken. We are having that for Gent, because chicken is his favorite, and he's either been too excited or a bit miffed for he hasn't eaten much since Tally came. He goes in and has milk, baby cereal, and Junior meals with the black fluff ball, but leaves his own dish nearly untouched.

Tomorrow I am supposed to be acting chief nurse for 8 days but the Major had a temper tantrum - as she frequently does - on Friday and said she wasn't taking leave, so I don't know if I'm to work there or not. I wish she'd get on out and go to Shule, Greenland before I'm as nutty as she is!

I hope you got the package. I found a few packages of soap that I forgot I had, so I'll mail them later. Let me know if you can wear the size 14's; if not, I can get 16's. I have plenty to use so no problem about those 2. just swap the rags; so I can swap them later for new ones.

I'll stop for now and finish a note to Marie. She sent me a cute birthday card - said she wasn't wearing her major's leaves yet but that Dick, her husband, was surviving all the razzing pretty well (he's still Capt.)

Write and I'll try to do better about it myself.

Love, Bette
& Kay